

5-1997

## Honors Oracle, May 1997

Marshall University Honors College

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### Recommended Citation

Marshall University Honors College, "Honors Oracle, May 1997" (1997). *Honors Oracle*. 28.  
<http://mds.marshall.edu/oracle/28>

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# Honors News

May 1997

Marshall University

## Students and Faculty Create Honors Courses

by Nicole LaRose

Like a baby, an Honors course progresses through many developmental stages before it is ready to walk. While some ideas remain in the infantile state, others complete their development and are offered as interdisciplinary seminars.

Each semester, Honors courses begin their journey to

maturity when the Honors Program sends out a call to all full-time faculty for proposals for interesting, interdisciplinary courses. The Department stresses the interdisciplinary aspect, and usually looks for a team teaching and a seminar style approach. This usually occurs a year before a course is offered. Dr. Richard Badenhause, Chair of the Honors

Council, says that this first step is "one of the burdens of the Honors Department. We're constantly inventing our curriculum, but that challenge is one of the exciting features of the program because we are always introducing new faculty and new ideas into the classroom."

**story continued on page 3**

### *Comments from the Chair*

I had the great pleasure last month to visit Hon 296: Voices of the American Civil War, which is currently being team-taught by Dr. Amy Hudock and Dr. Katherine Rodier, both Assistant Professors of English. Since the instructors have constructed their approach around Walt Whitman's comment that "the real war will never get into the books," the class has been seeking to recover some of those "lost voices," voices that might help tell the story of Whitman's "real war."

During class, students engaged in a lively, one-hour conversation about two memoirs of the war--all fifteen students participated regularly. Class members covered a wide range of important topics, including questions related to racial identity; reader's assumptions about narrators; the structure of memoir; the relationship between genre and tone; and the motivations of narrative representation.

I was impressed by the skills the students exhibited: critical thinking skills, the ability to employ evidence in argumentation,

the ability to work together in groups, and the ability to defend a position orally. Although we assume all Honors classes will encourage students to develop these skills, we probably don't make it clear enough to students that these are the very talents that employers from all disciplines will be looking for when they hire college graduates. At least that was the point made by Mr. J. Marvin Quinn, Chief Financial Officer at Ashland Oil, at last month's Honors Program "What's It Like?" panel on Business.

The class also gave Dr. Hudock and Dr. Rodier a chance to show off their fine team-teaching skills; they have managed to integrate themselves and the students seamlessly into the class structure so that the seminar becomes a true conversation instead of a vehicle for professors to "take turns" in front of the class, a common team-teaching trap.

Whenever I visit an Honors seminar--and this class was no exception--I'm always reminded of what fine teachers the Program at-

tracts. If this year's University teaching Awards are any indication, this continues to be true. For the second year in a row, an Honors professor has won the Reynolds Teaching Award, Marshall's most prestigious recognition of teaching. The recipient of that award, Dr. William Palmer of the Department of History, will be teaching an Honors seminar on Irish History next fall. Amazingly, all three recipients of the new Cola Distinguished Teaching Award--Dr. Debra Teachman, Dr. Nancy Lang, and Prof. Dennis LeBec--have offered Honors seminars recently. Dr. Teachman also sits on the University Honors Council and Dr. Lang will be team-teaching another seminar in Spring 1998 on Oral Culture.

Let me congratulate and thank those teachers and all the Honors professors who taught for the Program this year. And let me wish all Honors students the best of luck on their final papers and exams. I hope all of you have a safe and productive summer.

Dr. Richard Badenhause  
Chair/University Honors Council



# "Business: What's It Like?" Concludes Series

by Dana Kinzy

The 1996-97 "What's It Like?" series concluded on March 26 with a segment devoted to professions in business. The panel included prominent area business people and addressed issues students entering the field might encounter.

Janet Vinyard, Marshall graduate and current Executive Director of West Virginia Oil Marketers and Grocers Association, discussed advancement possibilities in business. She advised students to "Always

take one step outside of your comfort level" in the pursuit of success.

Mr. Tom Pressman, a local business man who co-owns Strictly Business Computer Systems, addressed the business career from a small business perspective. Pressman urged future small business owners to "find the weakest spot and work on it the hardest. Always push yourself to work on other things." He claims that this philosophy and dedication is responsible for the growth of his own business.

Chief Financial Officer

of Ashland Oil, J. Marvin Quinn spoke about large scale business from an executive's position. According to Quinn, good communication skills are essential to a career in business. He advised students that "If you can't sell your ideas and communicate well, you may be better off choosing another career."

All three panelists agreed that the ability to learn was a valuable asset in a business career. Pressman concluded, "The ability to learn becomes more valuable with the faster rate of change today."

Honors students seem to be spending much of their free (and not so free) time cruising on the information superhighway. Where are they going? Here are a few sites that Marshall Honors students suggest you visit.

Individuals who need a little help with end of semester assignments might check out internet accessible libraries. Marshall's own Morrow library can be accessed at <http://www.marshall.edu/library/>. Students can also access libraries from other schools by conducting a web search. Morrow library can import books from these libraries via inter-library loan.

Honors student, Cheryl Cooper suggested some web pages that might be beneficial to science or nursing majors. Check out the Visible Human Project at [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/visible/visible\\_human.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/visible/visible_human.html) or the Atlas of the Brain at <http://www.med.harvard.edu/AANLIB/home.html> or the Medical Terms Dictionary at <http://www.pathway.net.hws/>

## Net Report

by Alison Gerlach

**medterms\_zip.html.**

Joe Remias also suggested sites for science majors. Students studying energy should visit the Electrochemistry Science and Technology Information Resource at <http://www.cmt.anl.gov/estir/info.htm> and the National Renewable Energy Lab at <http://www.nrel.gov>. Joe promises that these pages are easily understandable resources with information about batteries and fuel cells. These pages might also interest environmentally conscious students who wish to look for better ways to use energy resources.

Students seeking help on English papers will appreciate the Literature Resource for College and High School Students at <http://www.teleport.com/>

**~mgroves.** This site contains a large selection of author's webpages and links to on-line writings and books.

Of course, by the end of the semester, some students need to relieve a little stress. Work weary Honors students might take a study break and check out some fun web sights.

Peter Strong suggests checking out some humor including songs, poems, jokes, and stories about technologies guru, Mr. Computer. Students can access these humorous anecdotes at Omri's Computer Humor Page at <http://www/cs/bgu.ac.il/~omri/Humor/>.

The extremely stressed out student can let loose at the Kill Barney site available at <http://impressive.net/games/barney/fun.cgi>. Here, you can massacre that "beloved" purple dinosaur using a knife, a motorcycle, or many other weapons.

Well, these are just a few sites of interest for the academically inclined and the stressed out students. Perhaps these sites will help with end of term papers and the resulting anxiety.



# Honors Convocation Celebrates Academic Excellence

by Alison Gerlach

On April 3, Honors students and faculty attended the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation where the University honored its outstanding faculty and students.

Ms. Martha Woodward, Executive Director of the Honors Program, opened the program by introducing Marshall University President, Dr. J. Wade Gilley. The program proceeded with the recognition of noteworthy students and faculty.

The A. Mervin Tyson Award was given to Honors 480: "The Holocaust" student, Lisa Hodggets. Natalia V. Gorham won

the India Association of Huntington Award and Brian Johnson was presented the Wallace E. Knight Excellence in Writing award. University Honors Book Awards were presented to Farrah Jacquez, Elton Bond, and Lisa Hodggets.

Faculty awards included the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Ms. Carol Valentine. Students gave a standing round of applause when Dr. Walker presented Honors professor, Dr. William Palmer with the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Award for Excellence in Teaching. Also, Pickens/Queen Awards recipients included Prof. Eugene Anthony, Dr. Christopher LeGrow, and Dr. Frederick

Mader.

The Honors Convocation concluded with an address by Mr. Anthony T. Murray, Jr. of Bell Atlantic. Murray spoke on "The Corporation and Civic Responsibility." In his address, Murray described a good leader as someone who possesses the abilities to communicate outside and inside an organization, to anticipate and handle disruptive change, and to adapt. Murray claimed that "The actions of the few mushroom into the actions of many." If this is the case, then the examples of academic excellence honored at the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation shine a positive light on the future of the Program.

## From the Editors' Desks

Well, the semester is almost over and workloads are beginning to feel particularly heavy as due dates and exams approach. Just hang in there---it will all be over soon. In the meantime, take a study break by catching up on the exciting activities in the Honors Department.

We would like to congratulate all the Honors students and faculty members who have won awards lately. We would also like to thank Honors students to took a few minutes to e-mail us the addresses of useful web pages. The results are in this edition of Honors News.

This is our last issue until Fall. It has been a great year and we thank all of you for your input and support. Have a great summer! See you in the Fall!

Your Co-Editors,  
Alison Gerlach, Gerlach3  
Dana Kinzy, Kinzy1

### Honors course cont.

The second step in an Honors course's life involves gathering all the proposals, usually received from a wide range of faculty, together for evaluation. These proposals are then distributed among the University Honors Council, a seventeen member committee composed of faculty representatives from each college, three student representatives, and members of the administration.

Finally, an Honors course completes its development when the Honors Council convenes and discusses the proposals at length. The Council members decide which proposals best fit the needs of the Honors Program and the students at the time. The Honors Program has had so many strong proposals recently that it has planned the curriculum through Fall 1998.

Although the Program has so many wonderful proposals, they are always looking for new ideas. Dr. Badenhausem would "encourage Honors students who want a particular topic taught to encourage their favorite professors to submit a proposal." Now that you know how an Honors course is born, you can get involved in the process. Maybe that glimmer of a seminar in your eye can become a reality.



# **John Deaver Drinko Symposium**

## **Highlights Role of the Citizen Orator**

*by Eric Butler*

The annual Drinko Symposium took place on April 2, 1997 in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. The symposium, funded by generous philanthropic gifts from Marshall Alumnus John Deaver Drinko and honorary Marshall graduate, Elizabeth Gibson Drinko, brings members of the community and Marshall faculty and students together. Each year, the symposium features different scholarly speakers who discuss prominent academic and social issues. This year's key speaker was the Chairper-

son of Marshall's Communication Studies Department, Dr. William Denman.

Denman focused his discussion on the Rhetoric and the Citizen Orator. He outlined the past, present, and future of Communication Studies. He also discussed the importance of Communication Studies in the life of the modern citizen. With the increasing emphasis our society places on technology, this topic is relevant to the political, social, and educational spheres of life.

Part-time Communication Studies professor, Cheryl Wilson-Ward said the symposium

"offer[s] students and faculty an opportunity to explore academic areas that have perhaps been neglected so far." With the rave reviews received by this year's event, it seems that the Symposium has succeeded in highlighting academic issues and bringing students and faculty together. Thanks to the Drinko's tremendous contributions to the University and the work of prominent academics like Dr. Denman, the symposium promises to continue to bring attention to important scholarly issues and to Marshall University.

### **ATTENTION**

Dr. Richard Badenhause, Chair of the Honors Council, will be on Sabbatical during the academic year 1997-98. The Interim Chair will be Dr. Monserrat Miller, Assistant Professor of History and Drinko Academy Fellow. Dr. Badenhause will return in August of 1998.



# **Congratulations Honors Students!**

Phi Eta Sigma Scholarship Nominee:  
Jocelyn Eikenburg

Karen C. Thomas Award:  
Laura Nowels

John Deaver Drinko Community Service Award:  
Farrah Jacquez

Outstanding Contributions Award:  
Laura Nowels

Outstanding Leadership:  
Laura Nowels

Outstanding Leader-Scholar:  
Adam Dean

Outstanding Sophomore:  
Dorion Liston

1997 Honors Program Domestic Scholarship (\$500):  
Jacki L. Pick

1997 Honors Program International Scholarship  
(\$1,000):  
Jocelyn Eikenburg

Women of Marshall Award:  
Emily Redington

1997 Upper-Division Non-Fiction Maier Writing  
Award: 1st place:  
Luke Styer

Listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and  
Universities:

Elton R. Bond  
Littia C. Chaowadee  
S. Elliott Dorsey, Jr.  
Emily Estelle Redington  
Joseph E. Remias

**Congratulations to these Honors  
Students for their fine achievements!**

## **Honors Council 1996-1997**

Dr. Richard Badenhause  
English/Chair, Honors Council

Dr. Sarah Denman  
VP/Academic Affairs

Dr. Frances Hensley  
Assoc. VP/Academic Affairs

Ms. Martha Woodward  
Executive Director/CAE

Dr. William Denman  
Communications Studies

Dr. Helen Linkey  
Psychology

Dr. Reed Smith  
College of Fine Arts

Dr. Allen Wilkins  
College of Business

Dr. Debra Teachman  
College of Liberal Arts

Professor Linda Hunt  
Community & Technical College

Dr. Dee Cockrille  
Dean/Student Affairs

Ms. Paula White  
College of Education

Professor Madonna Combs  
School of Nursing

Dr. Bruce Brown  
College of Science

Sara Dillon  
Student Rep/MUHSA

Jason Downey  
Student Rep/MUHSA

Jason Smith  
Student Rep



# *Vantage Point*

by Kathleen Sandell

On April 11, 1997, five faithful members of the Honors 296 Seminar journeyed to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to uncover the "Voices of the American Civil War" which still linger at the site of the battle known as the "turning point" of the war.

After studying the conflict through literature, analyzing different viewpoints, and observing the war from different perspectives, a trip to an actual battlefield greatly enhanced the classroom experience. Under the guidance of Dr. Amy Hudock and Dr.

Katharine Rodier, we toured Gettysburg at our own pace, slowly piecing together the history of the great battle.

Along our way we remembered the countless lives lost at the historic battlefields, revisited the war era in museums, and toured the Gettysburg National Military Park. The trip also allowed us to pay homage to General Robert E. Lee at his headquarters, and feel the spirits of the Civil War dead at the Farnsworth House where a Civil War widow told ghost stories. We sampled local culinary delights, visited the Gettysburg National

Cemetery, and finally came away with a greater understanding of, if not an explanation for, the war.

History teaches us that in July of 1863, General Lee and General Meade met, by chance, on the fields of Gettysburg. Perhaps the battle they fought was the most momentous and sorrowful occasion of the Civil War.

The trip to Gettysburg reinforced the lessons we learned in Honors 296. Each of those generals, soldiers, wives, doctors, nurses, and citizens had a voice, a history, and a story to tell.

Marshall University  
Center for Academic Excellence  
Honors Program  
Old Main 230  
Huntington, WV 25755-2160